

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The specification has been amended to correct the inconsistency identified by the Office Action. Accordingly, amendment of Fig. 7 is not required.

REMARKS

The specification and abstract have been amended as suggested by the Office Action. The figures have not been amended, but instead, a further amendment of the specification was performed in order to account for the deficiencies identified in the Office Action.

Claims 2-7 and 12-14 have been canceled, claims 1 and 8-9 have been amended, and claims 24 and 25 have been added. As a result, claims 1, 8-11, and 15-25 are now pending.

It is noted that the canceled claims and amended claims have been made so in order to facilitate allowance of the application and that the Applicants may reintroduce the canceled subject matter later and/or in a subsequent continuation application. It is also noted that the pending claims include subject matter indicated by the Office Action as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1-8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wuerker et al. (US 3,147,445). Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action and not taught by Wuerker et al. Claims 2-7 and 12-14 have been canceled to facilitate allowance of the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wuerker et al. (US 3,147,445) in view of Swenson (US 5,430,359). Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1, which has been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable and not taught by Wuerker et al. and Swenson, alone or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. NEW CLAIMS 24 and 25

New claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 8 and recite additional limitations.

Claim 8 and, therefore, claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 1 which has been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable. As a result, claims 24 and 25 are patentable over the cited references and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

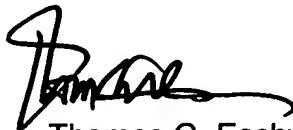
For at least the above reasons, pending claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance and notice thereof is requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, 02-IMP-035.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: April 25, 2005


Christine Gillroy